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(54) Sampling device.

(57) A fluid sampling device is described which provides for sample entry to be handled automatically by the instrument, thus allowing the operator to be involved in other activities while the sampling process is underway. It also ensures reproducible sample size, automatically cleans the sampling device between samples, and reduces the risk of user injury. Furthermore, the sampling system allows for the use of any foreseeable collection mechanism.

The device comprises :

(a) a system for detecting the presence and type of a container of the material,

(b) a system for withdrawing a sample of the material, wherein the system is determined by the type of the container, and

(c) a system for cleaning those parts of the device exposed to the material between the withdrawal of subsequent samples.

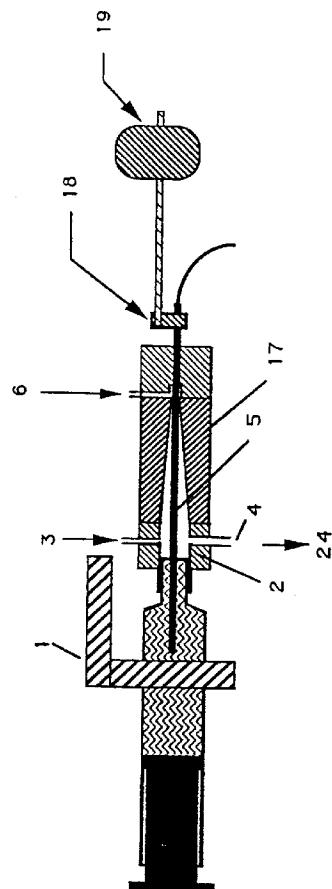


Figure 1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 30 3964. 6

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
11 A	US-A-4 749 658 (JAEKEL ET AL.) ---		G01N33/48 G01N1/00
12 A	WO-A-88 10158 (BECKMAN INSTRUMENTS, INC) ---		
6 A	EP-A-0 471 980 (EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)
			G01N B01L
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
BERLIN	9 June 1994	Ceder, O	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			